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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. September 16, 1954 SS142

Slight Crop Improvement in August

Total crop prospects improved slightly during August, but changes were noted for practically every individual crop. Improvement in corn, soybeans, and hay in the main Corn Belt resulted from mostly favorable growing conditions, but was nearly offset by deterioration of cotton, peanuts, and some other late-growing crops in the less-favored areas, particularly in the South and Southwest. Pastures are poorer than usual in nearly all areas except some of the most northerly States.

Drought Continued During August and Early September

The drought continued during August over much of the southern part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Shortages in feed crops, pastures, and stock water continue serious in the area. Irreparable damage to much of the corn, soybeans, and late hay crops has occurred in the drought areas, and yields of sorghums, sweet potatoes, peanuts, and cotton also are being affected by the lack of soil moisture. Supplies of feed and roughage stored for winter use are already being used. Little or no relief from the drought had come in early September.

Corn Crop Improved During August

Corn prospects improved by 149 million bushels during August, to a total of 2,973 million bushels, but this is 6 percent smaller than in 1953 and 3 percent below average. Favorable August growing conditions throughout the northern part of the Corn Belt and generally across the northern part of the country brought improvement that more than offset the adverse effects of the continued drought in South Central and South Atlantic areas. Drought sharply reduced outturns in the South, where much of the corn is being salvaged as silage or fodder. Good August rains in the Ohio and upper Mississippi Valleys improved growing conditions and probable yields, but also retarded maturity of the crop in northernmost sections.

Spring Wheat Prospects Reduced in August

The total wheat crop is estimated at 962 million bushels, down 15 million bushels from the August 1 estimate. This compares with 1,169 million bushels last year and the average of 1,122 million bushels. It is the smallest wheat crop harvested since 1943. The lower estimate is due to reduced prospects for other spring and durum wheat crops, which were damaged by rust and hot, dry weather.

Cotton Crop Declines 7% During August

Continuing abnormally hot, dry weather in all areas of the Cotton Belt, except the far west, cut cotton crop prospects nearly 7 percent during August, and a 1954 cotton crop of 11,832,000 bales was forecast as of September 1. This compares with the 1953 crop of 16,465,000 bales and the 10-year average of 12,448,000 bales. Reduction in prospects was sharpest in the Central Belt.

Acreage for harvest is estimated at 19,285,000 acres, compared with 24,341,000 acres in 1953. Abandonment of cotton in cultivation on July 1, including acreage removed from production after that date to comply with allotments, is estimated at 3.4 percent. Abandonment from natural causes since July 1 has been less than average.

Food Grain Tonnage Declines

Food grain tonnage declined below August 1 forecasts, as spring wheat suffered further from hot weather and stem rust. The record rice crop, however, increased to nearly 63 million bags. The rye crop is slightly above average, but buckwheat will be a small crop.

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index numbers	Base Period	August 1954
Prices received by farmers.....	1910-14=100	251
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & wage rates.....	1910-14=100	282
Parity ratio.....	1910-14=100	89
Farm wage rates.....	1910-14=100	1 505
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	1 106
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	1 115
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49=100	1 133

Production Comparisons

Item	Jan.-Aug., 1953	Jan.-Aug., 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.)	85.8	88.2
Eggs, (bil.)	42.9	44.4
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	2 5,190	2 5,538
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.)	2 5,669	2 5,212
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	2 364	2 373
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2 11,665	2 11,621

1 July 1954 figures.

2 January-July under Federal inspection.

Feed Prospects

Feed crop prospects (grains, hay, silage, fodder, pasture, and other feeding materials) for the country as a whole were reported as the poorest in the 18 years of record for September 1. Across the northern half of the country, feed prospects were mostly fair to good, but they varied from excellent in New England to near-failure in parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Drought severely reduced feed prospects in most of the South; the most seriously affected areas were in parts of Georgia, Alabama, and the main drought area, which embraces much of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, and extends up into Kansas and much of Missouri.

Feed grain prospects improved during August and the supply, bolstered by large carryover stocks, particularly of corn, will be relatively large.

Sept. 1, 1954 Compared with 1953
estimate crop

Corn	2,973 mil. bu.	down 204 million bu.
Oats	1,509	up 293 " "
Barley	369	up 128 " "
Sorghum grain	146	up 37 " "

Pastures improved during August, but the 64 percent condition is little better than a year ago and otherwise the lowest for September since 1936. Western range feed is at the lowest condition for September 1 since 1936.

Improved late season cuttings of hay in most northern States after good August rains resulted in a net gain of about 2 percent in the total tonnage, despite sharply reduced prospects in most southern States. The estimate of 103.7 million tons of all hay is slightly above the average of the five previous years and within 2 percent of the 1953 crop.

Other Crops

Dry bean production prospects declined in August; the crop is now estimated at 19.1 million bags, 6 percent more than the 1953 crop. Production of dry peas is now estimated at 3.9 million bags,

Total Oilseeds Below 1952 and 1953

Oilseed tonnage increased slightly over the August 1 forecast but total production for the four major oilseeds will be slightly smaller than in either 1952 or 1953. Soybean prospects improved to a record 325 million bushels, the flaxseed crop dropped to 42 million bushels, and the peanut crop to 1,168 million pounds. Cottonseed tonnage declined 7 percent.

Record High Tobacco Yield Per Acre in Prospect

Prospects improved during August in most tobacco areas, and a crop of 2,164 million pounds is now indicated compared with 2,105 million pounds forecast on August 1, and 2,057 million pounds produced in 1953. The prospective yield per acre of 1,326 pounds is the highest of record, exceeding the previous high in 1951 by 16 pounds.

largest since 1947 but only about 70 percent of the 1943-52 average. Total potato production is now estimated at 345.5 million bushels, 8 percent smaller than in 1953 and 16 percent below average. The sweetpotato crop is estimated at 29.1 million bushels, 14 percent less than in 1953 and 42 percent below average.

Deciduous Fruit 7 Percent Below Average

Prospective deciduous fruit tonnages increased 1 percent during August. Small increases for apples, pears, grapes, plums, and prunes more than offset a decline in peaches. August weather was mostly favorable for development of late fruit, although the hurricane in New England caused some damage. Larger tonnages than a year ago

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers

Index Numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Item	Aug. 15, 1953	July 15, 1954	Aug. 15, 1954
Prices received by farmers	255	247	251
Crops	232	248	250
Food grains	215	225	228
Feed grains and hay	205	202	207
Tobacco	430	446	430
Cotton	278	272	288
Fruit	185	228	235
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt.	207	243	223
Oil-bearing crops	263	286	294
Livestock and products	276	247	251
Meat animals	305	286	287
Dairy products	265	237	245
Poultry and eggs	229	171	178
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	¹ 261	263	264
Commodities used in living	273	277	277
Commodities used in production	¹ 248	247	250
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	279	280	282
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers)	91	88	89

¹ Revised.

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average price		Parity price
	July 15, 1954	Aug. 15, 1954	Aug. 15, 1954
Wheat, bu. dol.	2.00	2.03	2.50
Corn, bu. dol.	1.50	1.53	1.82
Peanuts, lb. ct.	11.2	11.4	13.6
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb. . ct.	32.18	34.00	35.09
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.49	1.41	1.51
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	21.20	21.60	20.70
Beef cattle, 100 lb. dol.	15.80	15.90	21.20
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	16.10	15.80	23.30
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	19.50	18.50	23.00
Butterfat, lb. ct.	55.7	55.7	74.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. dol.	3.71	¹ 3.88	4.74
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	22.4	21.5	29.9
Eggs, doz. ct.	34.4	37.4	46.8

¹ Preliminary.

are expected for apples, grapes, pears, and prunes, but smaller outturns for peaches, sweet and sour cherries, plums, and apricots. The aggregate is 1 percent larger than in 1953. Production of each fruit is below average and the total is 7 percent below average.

Labor for Farm Work, 1954

The present estimated production of crops and livestock for 1954 indicates that around a half billion, or about 3 percent, fewer man-hours of labor will be used for farm work this year, as compared with 1953. More labor will be needed this year to care for hogs, cattle, and almost all other kinds of productive livestock. Most kinds of crops also will take more time this year, but more than offsetting is the big reduction in labor needs for corn, wheat, and cotton. Fewer acres and lower yields of these crops resulted in substantially less labor for them this year than last year.

Farm labor needs by groups of enterprises, United States, 1954 and comparisons ¹

Groups of enterprises	1953	1954	1954 as a percentage of 1953
	<i>Million man-hours</i>	<i>Million man-hours</i>	<i>Million man-hours</i>
All productive livestock ² ...	5,557	5,696	102.5
Horses and mules	290	264	91.0
Crops	6,967	6,478	93.0
Farm maintenance ³	2,261	2,195	97.1
All farm work	15,075	14,633	97.1

¹ Man-hours are in terms of the time required by average adult male workers.

² All livestock except horses and mules.

³ Includes labor used for fencing, repairs to buildings, machinery and equipment, farm woods, permanent pastures, general land maintenance, farm business, and other miscellaneous work. Computed at 15 percent of all farm work.

Agricultural Research Service.

Land Values Lower Than Year Earlier

Values of farmland remained essentially unchanged in three-fourths of the States during the 4 months ended July 1, 1954. Only 7 scattered States showed increases of 2 percent or more, but these increases were offset by similar declines in 7 other States. The index of average value per acre for the country as a whole for July 1 remained at 120 (1947-49=100), the same as for March but 4 percent below a year earlier. Land values have declined 7 percent since the post-Korean peak in July 1952.

At 29.9 farms per 1,000, the rate of voluntary sales of farm real estate during the year ended March 15, 1954, was 13 percent below the previous year and only half that of the peak year 1946-47. As in recent years, farmers bought two-thirds of all farms sold in 1953-54 and nonfarmers bought one-third. Nearly a third of the sales reported in 1953-54 were to enlarge existing farms, about the same proportion as a year earlier but somewhat higher than in previous years. About 62 percent of the farms bought during 1953-54 were credit-financed compared with 59 percent a year earlier.

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, June 1954 ^{1 2}

State and region	Livestock and products <i>1,000 dollars</i>	Crops <i>1,000 dollars</i>	Total <i>1,000 dollars</i>
Maine	8,451	2,781	11,232
New Hampshire	4,504	571	5,075
Vermont	7,920	450	8,370
Massachusetts	9,732	3,818	13,550
Rhode Island	1,407	381	1,788
Connecticut	9,178	3,413	12,591
New York	49,889	13,415	63,304
New Jersey	16,898	12,865	29,763
Pennsylvania	45,752	9,192	54,944
North Atlantic Region	153,731	46,886	200,617
Ohio	54,214	20,120	74,334
Indiana	52,454	18,683	71,137
Illinois	92,920	48,371	141,291
Michigan	33,870	16,752	50,622
Wisconsin	76,408	11,198	87,606
East North Central Region	309,866	115,124	424,990
Minnesota	66,969	22,422	89,391
Iowa	143,949	26,428	170,377
Missouri	61,734	17,934	79,668
North Dakota	10,082	16,471	26,553
South Dakota	28,317	8,794	37,111
Nebraska	55,615	16,747	72,362
Kansas	36,775	65,495	102,270
West North Central Region	403,441	174,291	577,732
Delaware	6,603	962	7,565
Maryland	15,814	9,283	25,097
Virginia	21,317	9,938	31,255
West Virginia	7,496	1,656	9,152
North Carolina	18,128	12,930	31,058
South Carolina	6,947	11,021	17,968
Georgia	19,768	20,858	40,626
Florida	10,094	33,480	43,574
South Atlantic Region	106,167	100,128	206,295
Kentucky	22,899	3,003	25,902
Tennessee	19,311	4,414	23,725
Alabama	13,818	5,787	19,605
Mississippi	13,275	4,532	17,807
Arkansas	15,569	5,612	21,181
Louisiana	8,699	2,677	11,376
Oklahoma	29,134	59,978	89,112
Texas	75,360	43,639	118,999
South Central Region	198,065	129,642	327,707
Montana	7,310	9,851	17,161
Idaho	11,044	3,128	14,172
Wyoming	2,899	484	3,383
Colorado	21,609	7,430	29,039
New Mexico	8,292	1,846	10,138
Arizona	8,186	20,804	28,990
Utah	7,026	996	8,022
Nevada	2,217	146	2,363
Washington	15,488	18,171	33,659
Oregon	12,893	16,540	29,433
California	75,738	147,757	223,495
Western Region	172,702	227,153	399,855
United States	1,343,972	793,224	2,137,196

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

² For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

These estimates were published in the Farm Income Situation September 10, 1954.

Cash receipts from farming, United States

Source	May 1954	June 1954	January- June 1954
Farm marketings and CCC loans ¹	<i>Mil. dol.</i> 2,033	<i>Mil. dol.</i> 2,137	<i>Mil. dol.</i> 12,598
Livestock and products	1,444	1,344	8,346
Meat animals	757	684	4,505
Dairy products	389	380	2,098
Poultry and eggs	258	241	1,579
Other	40	39	164
Crops	589	793	4,252
Food grains	70	211	661
Feed crops	146	186	1,159
Cotton (lint and seed)	13	2	487
Oil-bearing crops	46	33	191
Tobacco	14	6	201
Vegetables	116	171	597
Fruits and tree nuts	93	126	449
Other	91	58	507
Government payments	29	39	157
Total cash receipts	2,062	2,176	12,755

¹Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

These estimates were published in the Farm Income Situation September 10, 1954.

CURRENT ESTIMATES
Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average	\$ 1,002	\$ 452	\$ 550	45%
1953--July	1,011	464	547	46
1954--June	987	418	569	42
July ³	994	426	568	43

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

³Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Farm production: Index Numbers of Total Output,
Gross Production of Livestock and Crops, by
Groups, and Related Indexes, United States ¹

(1947-49 = 100)

Item	1951-53	1953	Indicated 1954 ²
Farm output	106	108	106
All livestock and products ³	112	114	119
Meat animals	114	114	120
Dairy products	102	106	108
Poultry and eggs	123	127	133
All crops ⁴	102	103	98
Feed grains	100	101	103
Hay and forage	107	107	109
Food grains	94	96	83
Vegetables	97	100	96
Fruits and nuts	102	100	104
Sugar crops	98	107	114
Cotton	109	115	83
Tobacco	110	102	107
Oil crops	104	101	114
Feed used by farm horses and mules ⁵	65	57	51
Cropland used	100	100	100
Crop production per acre ⁶	102	103	98
Animal units of breeding livestock ⁷ ...	104	103	107
Livestock production per breeding unit ⁷	108	111	111

Prepared jointly by Agricultural Research Service and Agricultural Marketing Service.

¹For historical data and explanation of indexes, see "Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency," PERB 3, ARS.

²Indications for 1954 based on September 1954 "Crop Production" report and other releases of the Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS.

³Includes minor livestock products not included in the separate groups shown.

⁴Includes production of some miscellaneous crops not in separate groups shown.

⁵Hay and concentrates only. Not included in farm output.

⁶Index of crop production per acre is a ratio of total crop production to total land used for crops. It differs from the AMS index of yields per harvested acre of 28 crops.

⁷Animal units and production exclude horses and mules.

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